

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

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| Applicant's or agent's file reference 330802-00001 | FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below. | |
| International application No. PCT/US04/32408 | International filing date (day/month/year) 30 September 2004 (30.09.2004) | (Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 30 September 2003 (30.09.2003) |
| Applicant LUCKY LITTER LLC | | |

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 14 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. **Basis of the Report**
 - a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of:
 - the international application in the language in which it was filed.
 - a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))
2. Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box No. II)
3. Unity of invention is lacking (See Box No. III)
4. With regard to the title,
 - the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
 - the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:
5. With regard to the abstract,
 - the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
 - the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.
6. With regard to the drawings,
 - a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 2
 - as suggested by the applicant.
 - as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
 - as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.
 - b. none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

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International application No.

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Box IV TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of Item 5 of the first sheet)

The technical features mentioned in the abstract do not include a reference sign between parentheses (PCT Rule 8.1(d)).

NEW ABSTRACT

A self-cleaning litter box (50) which provides various advantages over the prior art. In particular, in one embodiment, the self-cleaning litter box (50) is configured to use a cartridge (20) which may include a litter compartment (26) and a waste compartment (24). In another embodiment, the cartridge (20) may be non-compartmentalized. The cartridge (20) may be disposable, thus eliminating the need for the user to clean the litter tray and handle heavy litter containers. In other embodiments, the system includes a rake assembly (56) configured with a drive assembly (58) that is protected from contamination. In accordance with another embodiment of the invention, the self-cleaning litter box (50) is configured to be used with all types of litter including crystal type litter.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A01K 1/01
US CL : 119/166

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 119/166, 165,161,163

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| X | US 5,931,119 A (NISSIM et al) 03 August 1999 (03.08.1999), see entire document. | 1,3-5,8 |
| X | US 5,048,465 A (CARLISI) 17 September 1991 (17.09.1991), see entire document. | 1,3,4 |
| X | US 6,202,595 B1 (ATCRAVI) 20 March 2001 (20.03.2001), see entire document. | 1,2,4-6,8 |
| X | US 1,514,291 (KIMBER) 04 November 1924 (04.11.1924), lines 50-53. | 4-7 |
| A | US 6,588,369 B2 (CARLISI) 08 July 2003 (08.07.2003), see entire document | 1-8 |
| A | US 6,568,348 B1 (BEDARD) 27 May 2003 (27.05.2003), see entire document. | 1-8 |
| A | US 6,378,461 B1 (THALER et al.) 30 April 2002 (30.04.2002), see entire document. | 1-8 |
| A | US 5,477,812 (WATERS) 26 December 1995 (26.12.1995), see entire document. | 1-8 |
| A | US 6,205,954 B1 (BOGAERTS) 27 March 2001 (27.03.2001), see entire document. | 1-8 |

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|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. | <input type="checkbox"/> | See patent family annex. |
| * | Special categories of cited documents: | "T" | later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention |
| "A" | document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance | "X" | document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone |
| "E" | earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date | "Y" | document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art |
| "L" | document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) | "&" | document member of the same patent family |
| "O" | document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means | | |
| "P" | document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed | | |

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| Date of the actual completion of the international search | Date of mailing of the international search report |
| 29 September 2005 (29.09.2005) | 16 NOV 2005 |
| Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201 | Authorized officer Teri Luu Telephone No. (800)786-9199 |

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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

EAST

search terms: litter, rake, tine, chassis, drive, cover